

REMARKS

In response to the above Office Action, claims 7 and 9 have been amended to include the features of (a) a columnar neck member having a shaft insertion hole into which a golf club shaft is inserted, the hole being closed at a hollow portion side of the columnar neck member and (b) the outer shell member having a crown member made of a fiber reinforced plastic material. Feature (a) is supported by the specification at page 15, lines 7 to 11 and Fig. 5. Feature (b) is supported by the specification at page 8, lines 4 to 10 and page 9, lines 11 to 17.

Claim 8 has been amended to include the feature of being formed by an internal pressure molding method using a bladder. This is supported by the specification at page 12, line 14 to page 14, line 1. Furthermore, the projecting portion recited in claim 8 has been clarified to recite that it projects "from the inner surface by 3 mm or more." This is supported by the specification at page 10, lines 11 to 17.

New claims 10 and 11 depending from claim 7 and 9 respectively, recite that the crown member made of fiber reinforced plastic material, the side member, and the face member are joined by applying a pressure from inside of the hollow portion toward an outside, thereby forming the outer shell member. The claims find support in the specification at page 8, lines 4 to 10 and at page 4, lines 13 and 17.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,669,827 to Nagamoto, claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over Nagamoto, and claim 9 for being obvious over Nagamoto in view of Official Notice.

Nagamoto does not disclose or suggest that the hosel portion does not protrude inside the head, or is closed at a hollow portion side, and does not disclose or suggest

that the crown member is formed of fiber reinforced plastic material. Hence, it is submitted that the golf club head of claim 7 is not anticipated by nor is the golf club head of claim 9 obvious over Nagamoto.

Regarding new claims 10 and 11 dependent on claims 7 and 9, due to the joint of the crown member, the side member and the face member by applying a pressure from inside of the hollow portion outward, the outer shell member can be formed very firmly. This is also not disclosed in Nagamoto.

Regarding claim 8, the shape and curvature of the projecting portion are important because the present invention utilizes a bladder to form the hollow portion so that it is necessary to define the shape and radius of the projecting portion to protect the bladder. Hence the numerical limitations of the projection are important.

Moreover, claim 8 now recites that the projection projects from the inner surface of the hollow portion "by 3 mm or more" to distinguish over the gentle rise shown in Fig. 2 of Nagamoto.

Consequently, it is believed that claim 8 is also not obvious over Nagamoto.

It is believed claims 7-11 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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